

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13, 18-25, 27, and 28 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3, 4, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22-25, 27, and 28 have been amended and Claims 14-17 and 26 have been cancelled by the current amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding office action, Claims 14 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese patent publication JP 2001-180043 (Maeda); Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-13, 22 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Maeda; Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Maeda in view of Neary (US 6,151,152); Claims 3, 18, 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Maeda in view of Ozaki et al. (US 6,243,124); and Claims 15, 19 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Maeda in view of Fujii et al. (US 5,424,765).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicants' representative on December 14, 2005 at which time the outstanding issues were discussed. Applicants proposed claim amendments to clarify that the clock frequency adjusting unit adjusts a write clock frequency of a plurality of laser beams using a clock generating unit for each laser beam. The Examiner acknowledged that the Maeda reference does not appear to illustrate a write clock frequency adjusting circuit for controlling individual write clock generating circuits.

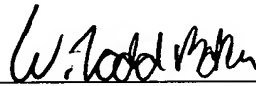
In view of the interview, Applicants have amended the claims consistent with the claim language proposed during the interview. Consequently, the rejections utilizing Maeda as the primary reference are hereby requested to be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/669,009
Reply to Office Action of November 11, 2005

No further issues are believed to be outstanding. Hence, an early and favorable action
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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